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LONG-TERM TRENDS IN FOREIGN-WORKER EMPLOYMENT.

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DURING THE FIRST SIX YEARS OF THE 1960 DECADE THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN WORKERS OF ALL NATIONALITIES EMPLOYED ON UNITED STATES FARMS HAS BEEN RAPIDLY DECLINING. DURING 1966, EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN CONTRACT WORKERS AVERAGED 5,100 WORKERS, DOWN 97 PERCENT FROM 145,800 IN 1959, THE HIGHEST AVERAGE IN HISTORY. THE SHARPEST DECREASE OCCURRED AFTER THE TERMINATION OF PUBLIC LAW 78, THE MEXICAN-WORKER PROGRAM, AT THE END OF 1964. BETWEEN 1964 AND 1966, AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT OF ALL FOREIGN WORKERS DECLINED 90 PERCENT AND THAT OF MEXICAN WORKERS 98 PERCENT. ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE GREAT DECREASE IN FOREIGN-WORKER USE WAS THE SHARP CUTBACK IN THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS. IN 1966, 34 PERCENT FEWER FOREIGN CONTRACT WORKERS WERE ADMITTED FOR EMPLOYMENT ON UNITED STATES FARMS THAN IN 1965, 88 PERCENT FEWER THAN IN 1964, AND 95 PERCENT FEWER THAN IN 1956, THE YEAR WHEN THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS WAS HIGHEST. FOUR TABLES ARE INCLUDED, GIVING DETAILED ANNUAL DATA FOR ALL FOREIGN WORKERS, MEXICANS, BRITISH WEST INDIANS, CANADIANS, JAPANESE, AND FILIPINOS. THIS ARTICLE APPEARED IN "FARM LABOR DEVELOPMENTS," JANUARY 1967. (ET)

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LONG-TERM TRENDS IN FOREIGN-WORKER EMPLOYMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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During 1966, employment of foreign contract workers on United States farms averaged 5,100 workers. Not only was this the lowest average on record, but it was hardly more than half of the previous record low -- 9,100 in 1965. Compared with the highest average in history, 145,800 in 1959, it was down 97 percent. (See Table 1.) The sharpest decrease occurred after the termination of Public Law 78, the Mexican-worker program, at the end of 1964. Between 1964 and 1966, average employment of all foreign workers declined 90 percent and that of Mexican workers 98 percent.

The number of foreign workers reached an annual peak of 12,169 at the end of September 1966 -- the lowest peak since 1942. (See Table 2.) It was down 96 percent from the all-time high of 308,168 in 1959. Peak Mexican employment was also the lowest since 1942. Peak British West Indian employment was the lowest since 1950 and peak Canadian employment the lowest since 1951. Never, since the importation of Japanese workers first began in 1956 had such a low peak employment been reported for them. The last Japanese contract worker left the country in September 1966 and employment of Filipino workers had been terminated before 1966 began.

Another indication of the great decrease in foreign-worker use is the sharp cutback in the number of admissions. In 1966, 23,524 foreign contract workers were admitted for employment on United States farms -- 34 percent less than in 1965, 88 percent less than in 1964, and 95 percent less than in 1956, the year when the number of admissions was highest. (See Table 3.)

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Table 1

Estimated Annual Average Employment of Foreign Contract Workers, by Nationality, 1953 to 1966

Year	Annual average foreign-worker employment				
	All foreign	Mexicans	BWI's	Canadians	Japanese & Filipinos
	(Thousands of workers)				
1953	79.8 1/	70.6	9.2	0.2	0
1954	83.2	74.7	7.6	1.0	0
1955	121.5	112.7	8.1	0.7	0
1956	135.2	125.7	8.9	0.6	0.1
1957	144.4	132.3	10.5	0.8	0.8
1958	140.6	131.8	7.2	0.5	1.0
1959	145.8	135.9	8.0	0.5	1.4
1960	123.4	113.2	8.0	0.6	1.6
1961	106.5	95.7	8.6	0.7	1.5
1962	70.7	59.7	9.0	0.7	1.3
1963	56.5	45.9	8.7	0.7	1.3
1964	52.8	42.3	8.4	0.8	1.3
1965	9.1	2.2	6.0	0.4	0.5
1966	5.1	1.0	3.7	0.3	0.1

1/ First year for which in-season farm labor reports were submitted for the entire year.

NOTE: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.

Table 2

ANNUAL PEAK EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS ADMITTED FOR TEMPORARY JOBS IN U.S. AGRICULTURE
By Nationality, Year, and Month
1942 - 1966

Calendar Year	All Foreign Workers 1/		Mexicans		B W I's		Canadians		Japanese		Filipinos	
	Number	Month	Number	Month	Number	Month	Number	Month	Number	Month	Number	Month
1942 2/	4,200	Sept.	4,200	Sept.								
1943	36,289	Sept.	36,289	Sept.	13,114	July						
1944	66,572	Sept.	65,097	Sept.	24,101	July	1,475	Sept.				
1945	94,210	July	65,421	July	28,789	July	3,635	Sept.				
1946	45,354	July	45,354	July	24,157	Oct.	4,926	Sept.				
1947	96,840	June	36,840	June	10,026	Aug.	6,254	Sept.				
1948 3/4/	40,000	Oct.	35,600	Oct.	8,000	July	5,400	Sept.				
1949 4/	85,600	Oct.	74,778	Oct.	6,480	Aug.	1,998	Oct.				
1950 4/	89,100 5/	Oct.	70,700	Oct.	8,300	July	2,500	Oct.				
1951	130,104 5/	Oct.	121,600	Oct.	13,900	June	2,300	Sept.				
1952	139,437	Oct.	125,473	Oct.	12,257	July	5,200	Oct.				
1953	171,128	Oct.	159,174	Oct.	11,954	Oct.	5,700	Oct.				
1954	202,626	Oct.	194,534	Oct.	11,732	Feb.	6,276	Sept.				
1955	240,841	Oct.	232,297	Oct.	9,851	Dec.	6,686	Sept.				
1956	290,156	Oct.	276,893	Oct.	11,257	Dec.	6,648	Sept.	390	Oct.		
1957	272,435	Oct.	260,522	Oct.	12,199	May	7,200	Sept.	990	Sept.	33	Oct.
1958	284,835	Sept.	274,525	Oct.	11,674	Jan.	6,876	Sept.	1,200	Sept.	25	Oct.
1959	308,168	Sept.	291,515	Sept.	10,978	Dec.	8,491	Sept.	1,560	Dec.	30	June-Dec.
1960	246,675	Sept.	234,171	Sept.	11,645	Dec.	8,026	Sept.	1,830	Dec.	30	Jan.-Apr.
1961	220,934	Oct.	208,511	Oct.	12,174	Dec.	8,561	Sept.	1,780	Jan.	0	--
1962	127,032	Sept.	111,414	Sept.	13,834	Dec.	8,722	Sept.	1,440	Apr.	120	Dec.
1963	105,454	Sept.	90,142	Sept.	14,887	Jan.	8,442	Sept.	1,260	Aug.	120	Jan.-Oct.
1964	92,784	Sept.	82,140	Sept.	15,062	Dec.	7,812	Sept.	1,240	July	120	Jan.-May
1965	23,698	Sept.	16,650	Sept.	14,929	Jan.	4,223	Sept.	870	Jan.	60	May-June
1966	12,169	Sept.	7,760	Sept.	8,835	Dec.	3,529	Sept.	194	Apr.	0	--

1/ The monthly peak of total foreign workers does not necessarily coincide with the monthly peak for each nationality.
2/ Data from 1942 through 1947 were obtained from reports prepared by the Department of Agriculture.
3/ Data from 1948 through 1966 compiled by the Bureau of Employment Security, U.S. Department of Labor.
4/ 1948, 1949, and 1950 data on monthly foreign-worker employment are estimated from incomplete reports.
5/ Although Puerto Ricans are not foreign workers they are included in these totals.

Table 3

FOREIGN WORKERS ADMITTED FOR TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT IN U.S. AGRICULTURE
By Year and Nationality 1/
1942 - 1966

Year	Total	Mexican	British West Indian 2/3/	Canadian	Japanese and Filipino
1942 4/	4,203	4,203			
1943	65,624	52,098	13,526	INA	
1944	83,206	62,170	19,622	INA	
1945	72,900	49,454	19,391	1,414	
1946	51,347	32,043	13,771	4,055	
1947	30,775	19,632	3,722	5,533	
1948 5/	44,916	35,345	3,671	7,421	
1949	112,765	107,000	2,765	5,900	
1950	76,525	67,500	6,225	3,000	
1951	203,640	192,000 6/	9,040	2,800	
1952	210,210	197,100 6/	7,910	2,600	
1953	215,321	201,380 6/	7,741	5,200	
1954	320,737	309,033 6/	4,704	6,200	
1955	411,966	398,650 6/	6,616	7,000	
1956	459,850	445,197 6/	7,563	6,700	
1957	452,205	436,049 6/	8,171	6,700	390
1958	447,513	432,857 6/	7,441	7,300	685
1959	455,420	437,643 6/	8,772	6,900	315
1960	334,729	315,846 6/	9,820	8,600	405
1961	310,375	291,420 6/	10,315	8,200	863
1962	217,010	194,978 6/	12,928	8,600	40
1963	209,218	186,865 6/	12,930	8,700	404
1964	200,022	177,736 6/	14,361	8,500	923
1965	35,871	20 284	10,917	7,900	25
1966	23,524	8,647	11,194	4,670	0
				3,683	0

1/ This does not include Basque sheepherders.
2/ Due to carryover of workers from year to year, the number admitted is usually less than peak employment.
3/ Includes Bahamians.
4/ Data from 1942 through 1947 were obtained from reports prepared by the Department of Agriculture.
5/ Data from 1948 through 1966 were compiled from administrative reports of the Bureau of Employment Security, U.S. Department of Labor.
6/ Admitted under Public Law 78.

Annual Average Unemployment Rates, All Workers and Agricultural Wage and Salary Workers, United States, 1961 to 1966

Year and month	Unemployment rate 1/	
	All workers	Agricultural wage and salary workers
1961	6.7	9.3
1962	5.6	7.3
1963	5.7	8.9
1964	5.2	9.3
1965	4.6	7.3
1966	3.9	6.5
1965		
Jan.	5.5	11.7
Feb.	5.7	13.0
March	5.1	10.6
April	4.8	8.5
May	4.4	5.2
June	5.5	6.4
July	4.6	5.0
Aug.	4.2	4.8
Sept.	3.8	4.8
Oct.	3.6	5.3
Nov.	3.9	9.1
Dec.	3.8	8.9
1966		
Jan.	4.4	11.6
Feb.	4.2	11.6
March	4.0	9.5
April	3.7	6.7
May	3.8	6.2
June	4.9	4.7
July	4.0	3.4
Aug.	3.7	5.0
Sept.	3.3	3.8
Oct.	3.3	5.0
Nov.	3.4	6.7
Dec.	3.5	8.7

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: 1961-65--Statistical Tables on Manpower, a reprint from the Manpower Report of the President, U.S. Department of Labor, 1966. Monthly data 1965-66 and 1966 annual average -- Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report of the Labor Force, U.S. Department of Labor.